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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/023,858	12/21/2001	Atushi Kato	016907/1342	5718

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, HOAI AN D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2854

DATE MAILED: 06/04/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/023,858

Applicant(s)

KATO, ATUSHI

Examiner

Hoai-An D. Nguyen

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12/21/2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 5, 8 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Takahashi (US 6,246,486).

Takahashi teaches an information processing system comprising:

- A communication section (FIG. 2, external input/output interface 108 and column 3, lines 64-66) configured to execute communication with at least one-second image-forming apparatus (printers or printing devices) connected thereto via a communication line (From column 2 line 65 to column 3, line5), with regard to claims 1 and 8.
- A job storage (FIG. 1, file server 500) configured to sequentially store the image-forming jobs (print jobs) issued from the terminal (column 3, lines 55-63), with regard to claims 1, 8 and 12.
- A job display control section (FIG. 2, CRTC 106 and CRT 111, and column 3, lines 64-66) configured to display, on a display, information contained in the image-forming jobs that are stored in the job storage, upon receiving a request for

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displaying the image forming jobs (column 2, lines 59-60), with regard to claims 1, 5, 8 and 12.

- A job transfer section configured to extract one of the image-forming jobs stored in the job storage, upon receiving a request for changing an output destination of the one of the image-forming jobs, thereby transferring it to the second image-forming apparatus designated as the output destination, via the communication section (From column 3, line 66 to column 4, line 4 and from column 6, line 61 to column 7, line 3), with regard to claims 1, 5, 8 and 12.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2, 6, 9 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Nakatsuma et al. (US 6,115,132).

Takahashi teaches all that is claimed, except for the followings:

- a machine information search section configured to search machine information on the second image-forming apparatus connected via the communication line.
- a machine information display control section configured to display, on the display, the machine information on the second image-forming apparatus searched by the machine information search section.

However, Nakatsuma et al. teaches a printer/client network comprising:

- a machine information search section (FIG. 7, virtual print server service 712) configured to search machine information on the second image-forming apparatus connected via the communication line (column 16, lines 30-49), with regard to claims 2, 6, 9 and 13.
- a machine information display control section (FIG. 7, virtual print server API 711) configured to display, on the display, the machine information (FIG. 15) on the second image-forming apparatus searched by the machine information search section (column 15, lines 62-67), with regard to claims 2, 6, 9 and 13.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Takahashi to incorporate the teaching of a machine information search section and a machine information display control section taught by Nakatsuma et al. since Nakatsuma et al. teaches that such an arrangement is beneficial to provide a currently updated printer information table.

5. Claims 3, 7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Maniwa (US 5,933,584).

Takahashi teaches all that is claimed, except for the following:

- a job change section configured to change information of one of the image-forming jobs stored in the job storage, upon receiving a request for changing the information of the one of the image-forming jobs.

However, Maniwa teaches a network system comprising:

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- a job change section (FIG. 2, print server machine 106 and print server software) configured to change information of one of the image-forming jobs stored in the job storage, upon receiving a request for changing the information of the one of the image-forming jobs (column 4, lines 27-62), with regard to claims 3, 7 and 10.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Takahashi to incorporate the teaching of a job change section (print server software) taught by Maniwa since Maniwa teaches that such an arrangement is beneficial to provide convenience and better management of handling a print job.

6. Claims 4 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Nakatsuma as applied to claims 1 and 2 above, and further in view of Maniwa.

Takahashi in view of Nakatsuma teaches all that is claimed, except for the following:

- a job change section configured to change information of one of the image-forming jobs stored in the job storage, upon receiving a request for changing the information of the one of the image-forming jobs.

However, Maniwa teaches a network system comprising:

- a job change section (FIG. 2, print server machine 106 and print server software) configured to change information of one of the image-forming jobs stored in the job storage, upon receiving (,from the terminal,) a request for changing the information of the one of the image-forming jobs (column 4, lines 27-62), with regard to claims 4 and 11.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Takahashi to incorporate the teaching of a job change section (print server software) taught by Maniwa since Maniwa teaches that such an arrangement is beneficial to provide convenience and better management of handling a print job.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant's attention is invited to the followings whose inventions disclose similar devices.

- Gase et al. (US 5,580,177) teaches a printer/client network with centrally updated printer drivers and printer status monitoring.
- Yamaguchi (US 5,832,301) discloses a printer server system for interrupting a job from a first terminal for a job from a second terminal based on detected priorities.
- Matsubara (US 6,188,487) teaches a print control system and print control method.
- Matsuyama (US 6,567,177) discloses an image storing apparatus.
- Ishikawa (US 2002/0042263) teaches a print service system, print order receiving server, image storage service system, image storage server and mobile telephone.

CONTACT INFORMATION

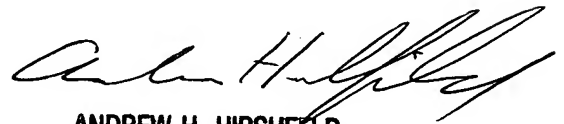
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoai-An D. Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-3343. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00 - 5:30) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew H. Hirshfeld can be reached on (703) 305-6619. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Hoai-An D. Nguyen
Examiner
Art Unit 2854

HADN
May 30, 2003



ANDREW H. HIRSHFELD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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